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REMARKS

Claims 1-62 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1-39, 41, 43-46, 48-51, 53-55, 58, and 59 have been amended herein. A version of all pending claims is shown at pages 3-12 of this Reply. Additionally, as discussed with the Examiner on August 23, 2005, applicants' representative submits that relevant aspects of the cited art (e.g., Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition) corresponding to the claims herein constitute the applicants' own work and was not available more than one year prior to the effective filing date of March 6, 2001. In particular, BizTalk Server 2000 was released to manufacturing (RTM) on December 12, 2000, and released to the public in the following year. (See <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/press/2000/dec00/manfreleasepr.mspx>).

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 2-21, 23-38, and 53-58 Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2-21, 23-38, and 53-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Per the Examiner's suggestion, claims 2-21, 23-38, and 53 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants' regard as the invention. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 59-62 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 59-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Independent claim 59 has been amended to recite additional structural and functional interrelationships in order to appease the Examiner and expedite prosecution on the merits. Independent claim 59 is within the technological arts and produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Accordingly, this rejection of independent claim 59 as well as the associated depended claims should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-31, 34-36 and 38-62 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1-31, 34-36 and 38-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition as evidenced by the Microsoft

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BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide (1999-2000). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. The Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition as evidenced by the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide is not a proper reference within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

IV. Rejection of Claims 32, 33 and 37 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 32, 33 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition as evidenced by the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide (1999-2000). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. Claims 32, 33 and 37 depend either directly or indirectly upon independent claim 22, which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

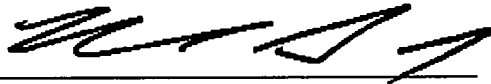
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP115US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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